

Appl. No. : 09/457,207
Filed : December 7, 1999

REMARKS

The May 28, 2004 Office Action was based upon pending Claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 11-27. This Amendment amends Claims 17, 18 and 20 and cancels Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 11-16, 19, 22, and 23. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, Claims 17, 18, 20, 21, and 24-27 are pending and presented for further consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner stated that Claims 24-27 were allowed. Also, the Examiner stated that Claims 17, 18, 20 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. With this amendment, Applicants have rewritten Claims 17, 18 and 20 to include all the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Claim 21 which depends from Claim 20 is believed to be patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claim 20, and because of the additional features recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 24-27 and amended Claims 17, 18, 20 and 21 are now in condition for allowance.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8 AND 19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the May 28, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 8 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Carnahan.

While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner, Applicant has cancelled Claims 8 and 19 so that the allowed claims can proceed to issuance.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13-16, 22 AND 23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13-16, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carnahan in view of Wilska (U.S. Patent No. 6,427,078). While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner, Applicant has cancelled these claims so that the allowed claims can proceed to issuance.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is specifically requested.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 7/14/04

By: John R. King
John R. King
Registration No. 34,362
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

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